AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of exchanging data between a buyer and a plurality of multiple suppliers via an internet supplier on-line system:

generating by a buyer a request for a quotation from at least some of the plurality of suppliers for a cost of a part or device;

~~determining if the request for the quotation will include attachments;~~

generating <u>at least one attachment document</u>~~documents when the request for quotation will include attachments~~, <u>at least one of</u> the request for quotation and ~~attachments~~ <u>the at least one attachment document</u> including both engineering <u>information</u> and business <u>information</u> ~~documents~~;

determining which of the plurality of suppliers are to be provided with the request for quotation ~~and attachments~~;

inquiring ~~whether~~ <u>if</u> all suppliers to be provided with the request for quotation ~~and attachments~~ are registered on the supplier on-line system;

<u>responsive to the inquiring,</u> registering the suppliers not <u>registered</u> on the supplier on-line system;

notifying the buyer, automatically by the supplier on-line system, of the registration of the suppliers;

~~determining whether the request for quotation is for a commodity part or device or is for a non-commodity part or device, and (i) selecting which of the generated documents are to be attached as part of an item bidding process corresponding to each of the commodity parts or devices or (ii)~~ selecting which of the generated ~~documents~~ <u>at least one attachment document</u> are to be attached as part of a service bidding process corresponding to ~~each of the~~

respective non-commodity parts or devices ~~of the request for quotation~~;

building the request for quotation, including joining the selected ~~business and technical documentation~~ generated attachment documents into a request for quotation pack, the request for quotation pack including the business information and the engineering information, the engineering information to be used by at least one of the suppliers for generating the non-commodity parts or devices;

registering information in ~~one of the item bidding process for commodity parts or devices or~~ the service bidding process for the non-commodity parts or devices;

selecting the suppliers that are to receive the request for quotation pack;

making the request for quotation pack available to selected suppliers on a supplier on-line system web site; ~~and~~

e-mailing all suppliers that the request for quotation pack is available at the web site; and

displaying the request for quotation pack on a computing device for at least one of the suppliers.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1 further including:

~~reviewing, by the supplier, the available request for quotation pack;~~

~~responding, by the supplier, by generation of a quotation corresponding to the request for quotation pack;~~

~~submitting the quotation to the recited supplier on-line web site; and~~

receiving from the supplier a quotation corresponding to the request for quotation pack; and

e-mailing automatically by the supplier on-line system, the buyer that the supplier has entered a quotation.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further including:

analyzing automatically the request for quotation pack to determine a last day available for the supplier to respond;

determining, if the day the quotation is provided by the supplier is prior to the last day to respond to the request for quotation pack; and

providing the buyer with the capability to review quotations for request for quotation pack received prior to the last day to respond.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3 further including:

determining whether a need exists to alter the last day for responding to a request for quotation;

altering the last day suppliers may respond to a request for quotation; and

transmitting, automatically, e-mail notifications to the suppliers that the last day to respond to the request for quotation has been altered.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the action of making the request for quotation with the attached documents available to select suppliers includes synchronizing the data in the request for quotation with internal and external databases in order to transfer the files to a designated web site.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 further including an action of downloading documentation from sources outside of the supplier on-line system for inclusion into the request for quotation pack.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further including an automatic document transfer process which generates files to be included in the request for quotation pack wherein the automatic document transfer process transfers the generated files to individual supplier folders maintained on a back end supplier on-line server.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 2 further including an upload

document transfer process wherein a supplier is able to upload document information to the supplier on-line system which may be received by the buyer.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1 further including:

registering part or device number information within the bidding process for the commodity parts or devices; and

selecting the documentation that is to be attached to individual parts or devices of the request for quotation to form the request for quotation pack.

10. (Currently amended) A method configured to exchange data between a buyer and a plurality of suppliers via an on-line communication network, comprising:

generating a request for a quotation intended for at least some of the plurality of suppliers for a cost of a part or device;

determining if the request for the quotation will include attachments;

generating documents when for inclusion as attachments to the request for quotation will include attachments, the request for quotation and attachments including both engineering and business documents;

determining whether that the request for quotation is for a commodity part or device or is for a non-commodity part or device, and (i) selecting which of the generated documents are to be attached as part of an item bidding process corresponding to each of the commodity parts or devices or (ii) selecting which of the generated documents are to be attached as part of a service bidding process corresponding to each of the non-commodity parts or devices, the commodity part or device being found in a catalog;

building the request for quotation, including joining the selected business and technical engineering documentation into a request for quotation pack;

registering information in one of the item bidding process for commodity parts or devices or the service bidding process for non-commodity parts or devices;

selecting the suppliers that are to receive the request for quotation pack;

making the request for quotation pack available to selected suppliers on a
supplier on-line system web site; and

displaying the request for quotation pack on a computing device for at least one
of the selected suppliers.

11. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10 further including:

configuring the request for quotation pack for automatic analysis by one of the
suppliers to determine a last day available for the supplier to respond; and

providing the buyer with the capability to review quotations for request for
quotation pack received prior to the last day to respond.

12. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10 wherein the action
of making the request for quotation with the attached documents available to select
suppliers includes synchronizing the data in the request for quotation with internal and
external databases in order to transfer the files to a designated web site.

13. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10 further including an
action of downloading documentation from sources outside of the supplier on-line
system for inclusion into the request for quotation pack.

14. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 10 further including:

registering part or device number information within the bidding process for the
commodity parts or devices; and

selecting the documentation that is to be attached to individual parts or devices
of the request for quotation to form the request for quotation pack.

15. (New) The method according to claim 10 further including:

downloading the engineering documents to at least one of a CAD workstation, a
plotter, and a CNC machine.

16. (New) The method according to claim 10 further including:

synchronizing data included in the request for quotation pack with data of internal and external databases;

receiving from at least one of the selected suppliers by a supplier online system, a supplier quotation comprising supplier documentation and supplier business information; and

generating a buyer notification e-mail by the supplier online system in response to receiving the supplier quotation.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16 further including:

determining by the supplier online system a close day for the request for quotation pack; and

prohibiting reception of the supplier quotation after the determined closed day.